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G.A.R.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

S.U.V.C.W.

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

1866 VOLUME No. 5 ISSUE No. 3 Winter 2006 1881

CLIFTON E. GAUNT (October 1, 1901-November 26, 2005)

Millville, MA: For the one hundred and four years (104), Brother Clifton E. Gaunt of A.A. Sherman Camp #18 was on this Earth, his three biggest loves were God, country and family. Brother Clifton was born on October 1, 1901, and actually knew veterans of the Civil War. Brother Clifton was a First World War veteran and quite possibly the last one. In 1918, Brother Clifton was at Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts when he witnessed the Red Sox win the World Series. It took his beloved team 86 years to win another, which he joyfully saw happen. Brother Clifton was very active in life, always standing to pay respect to his flag, and among his hobbies was the time consuming art of rug hooking (Behind the photo of Brother Clifton in his WWI uniform is a U.S. flag that he created).

Sadly, on Saturday, November 26, 2005, Brother Clifton Gaunt passed away. Calling hours were held at the Hold Funeral Home in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. With his casket draped with a U.S. flag, flanked by the National and Regimental Colors of a Civil War unit, and sharing his coffin with his WWI garrison cap, a Red Sox t-shirt and bat, he was guarded at all times by two uniformed Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The following Sons stood guard over Brother Clifton as family and friends paid their last respects, Brothers Roy Henry, Frank Haley, Benjamin Emerick, James Gass, Norman Wheeler, Robert H. Knight, Steven Twining, George Maple, Reynaldo Rodriguez, and Benjamin Duce.

During the wake, more than one solemn ceremony was observed. The traditional catholic clergy sermon was given, but also a ceremony done by the Masons. Towards the end of the wake, the last ceremony was a burial service for a Son of Union Veterans of the Civil War given by Brother Roy Henry assisted by Brother Robert H. Knight. Also present to pay respects to Brother Clifton was Brother Bill Ryerson,PDC and a brother representing our brothers in Rhode Island. (Continued page 2)

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The next morning, the Sons paid their very last respects. The contingent stood in a single flank and slowly saluted Brother Clifton together as one. The casket was then left for the closest family members prior to being prepared for Brother Clifton's last ride.

Leaving Woonsocket, Rhode Island, a procession of cars led by the funeral van, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, family, Brother Clifton Gaunt, and then friends/family soon crossed over into Massachusetts. Once in Millville, the chief of police proudly controlled the traffic allowing the cars to reach their destination, St. Augustine's Church.

At the church, the Sons stood at attention as the casket passed through the entrance. During the mass, one of Clifton's works of art was on display at the altar, a beautiful image of Jesus. The rug hooked work consisted of thousands of strands of yarn and took Brother Clifton hundred of hours to make. Brother Clifton donated it to the church, which always received comments on its beauty by all who entered. The Sons stood at attention as Brother Clifton was moved from Millville for his final ride to his final resting place in North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Union Cemetery in North Smithfield is where Brother Clifton Gaunt finally arrived for burial. With a U.S. flag placed on his casket, a wreath of flowers at the top as well as a U.S. flag blowing in the wind, Brother Clifton was ready to receive a patriotic delivery to Heaven. A drummer played as everyone prepared for the service. Once in place, the clergy gave his eulogy and was followed by Brother Roy Henry who gave last words on behave of the Sons. Brother Benjamin Emerick then played his fife in solemn tribute to Brother Clifton. Soon after, there were three volleys of musket fire. Finally, taps was played and echoed by Brother Joseph Hall, PDC of Rhode Island. The ser-

Past Massachusetts Department Commander

Frederick Cauldwell Jr. was the great-great grandson of General William T. Sherman and had a truck load of artifacts belonging to the general. He would drive his truck load of relics anywhere to show people, especially children. A piece of the collection was a sword with a dent in it. Brother Cauldwell was fond of asking those who saw it, "How do you think this happened?". As he waited in anticipation to tell the truth, he enjoyed the various possibilities that would come up, "In battle etc…". Finally, he would tell all, "I dented it by accident one day when I shut the truck door on it." That would create a laugh and add humor to learning about the civil war. Brother Cauldwell was a member of A.A. Sherman Camp #18 in Uxbridge, Mass., but also was a driving force in giving new life to Willie Grout Camp #25 in Worcester, Mass., In his civilian life, Brother Cauldwell was a nuclear scientist and worked with his father on the first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus. Other than holding the office of Department Commander, Brother Cauldwell was very active in his camps as he was a camp commander of Camp 18 and a Secretary/Treasurer of Camp 25. In the Central Mass. Civil War Roundtable he was a president and was also a civil war re-enactor. Another activity he was proud of was being an adviser to the committee for the General William Sherman Monument in Lancaster, Ohio.

Bellingham Monument Rededicated!

Thomas Carey, W.Ellis Cook, Moses Drake, C.Philip Hancock,
Joseph W. Holbrook, Jairas Lawrence, Joseph Osgood, H. Percy Slocum,
Calvin C. Thayer, Lewis E. Whitney

Commander John W. Bates III

Civil War Monument

Bellingham, MA: A Clarion Call Huzzah goes out to Brother Frank Haley of A.A. Sherman Camp #18. Because of his efforts, on Sunday November 13, 2005, the Department of Massachusetts joined the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the town of Bellingham to rededicate its Civil War Monument. The monument, dedicated in 1874, was moved to Bellingham Commons from its old location for its own protection. Where the monument had stood for over 130 years became dangerous as the intersection of two major highways, Route 140 and Route 126. Thanks to a corporation such as Dunkin Donuts the monument was safely moved during the summer.

15th Mass. Infantry S.V.R.

The rededication ceremony began with a parade from the Historical Society led by 1st Military District S.V.R. Commander Major Peter Rotando (18). The parade consisted of Emerick's Drum & Fife Corps, Department Colors carried by the 15th Massachusetts Infantry S.V.R., 13th, 20th and 25th Massachusetts Infantry reenactment regiments, Bellingham Police Honor Guard, Boys & Girl Scouts of America as well as dignitaries to include our own Department Commander John W. Bates (104), Senior Vice Commander Perley Mellor (25), and Chaplain Robert H. Knight (15). Along the parade route, stops were made at the World War I monument as well as the combined, World War II, Vietnam, and Korean monuments. At those locations, three volleys of salute were fired as well as taps played by Brother Ed Knight (15).

Brother Ed Knight

Adjacent the monument, set up as part of the G.A.R. dedication ritual was a display of soldier's gear guarded by Brother Roy Henry (18) and Benjamin Emerick (18). At the monument, the Color Guard which consisted of Brother Richard Luftkin (18), George Maple (25), Rey Rodriguez (25) and Ed Norris (25) took their place on the sides of the monument.
(Continued page 9)

Ceremony to Mark 187th Anniv. Of Gen. Benjamin Butler's Birth

Story and photos by William T. Ryerson, PDC, Dept. of Massachusetts, SUVCW

Lowell, MA: On a most beautiful fall afternoon, Saturday November 5th with the temperature in the mid seventies a gathering of Civil War enthusiasts assembled at a private cemetery (Hildreth) in Lowell, Massachusetts to honor Benjamin Franklin Butler. The General was born November 5, 1818 in Deerfield, New Hampshire and died January 11, 1893 in Washington, D.C. This event was organized by PCC Benjamin Emerick of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, a member of the A.A. Sherman Camp 18, Dept. of Massachusetts, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Special permission was obtained to enter the private cemetery which is enclosed by a high iron fence and the small contingent most dressed in Civil War uniform performed a dignified service in honor of General Butler and also for Major General Adelbert Ames, Butler's son-in-law who is also buried in the family cemetery. The first order of business was to remove the tattered National Flag and replace it with a new one donated by Camp 18 and then a memorial wreath and several small flags together with a G.A.R. grave marker were placed at both gravesites. Camp Commander Roy L. Henry Jr., officiated at the ceremonies assisted by Franklin Haley, James Bass, and other SUVCW members. Certificates were then presented to those in attendance from the Friends of Major General Benjamin Butler Society which plans to make this an annual event on Butler's birthday. The private cemetery was locked up again so the interned may rest in peace at this solitude location.

Benjamin Emerick had this to say about the ceremony to honor Major General Benjamin Butler on his birthday, "I am very pleased with the reception from the press and our individual participants. It was a pilot program and everyone that I spoke with enjoyed themselves and I certainly did." Brother Benjamin Emerick and Cynthia Brown hope that honoring General Butler's birthday will become an annual event. A **Clarion Call Huzzah** goes out to those who organized and participated in this event!

Benjamin Butler was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1882.

Left: Brothers James Bass and Franklin Haley of Camp 18 prepare the new flag for raising. Right: Brother Benjamin Emerick of Camp 18 performs in honor of his hero, General Butler.

The Political Parties Benjamin was affiliated during his lifetime: Democrat/Republican and Greenback.

Civil War Fact: The Springfield Armory had produced weapons for the United States since the 1790s. During the war, the armory increased its production from a prewar capacity of 1,200 arms a year to 300,000 in 1864.

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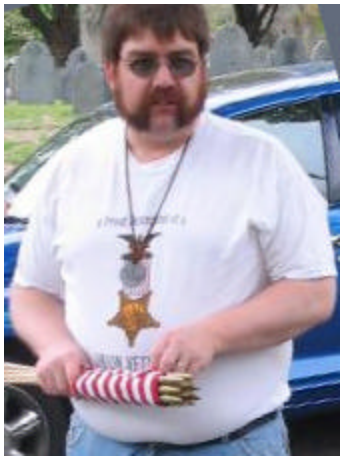
A Clarion Call Photo "Unusual Grave Stones"

Stoughton,MA : Located in the Evergreen Cemetery, the grave stone of this civil war soldier is quite unique. Discovered by Brother Ed Norris during his travels to various cemeteries in the state, this stone is that of a tent. It is the grave site of Private Marcus M. Porter. Private Porter was born in Stoughton, Massachusetts. At the age of 21, he enlisted in Company G 47th Massachusetts Infantry on October 15, 1862. On September 1, 1863, he was mustered out in Readville, Massachusetts. Marcus Porter was a member of G.A.R. Post #72 (A.St.John Chambre) in Stoughton, Massachusetts. Marcus Porter died on 9/25/1921



Patriotic Instructor's Corner

Brothers, As Sons, one of our most sacred duties is perpetuating the memories of those who were willing to sacrifice to preserve this country. This is not just done on the 4th of July or Memorial Day. There are other holidays that are very important and we may be able to get involved if there are local ceremonies. If not, maybe you can do a presentation at a local school near one of these lesser known days. Some camps already have events, some even listed on the Department website. If you see an event and you are able, go attend, or better yet, call the host camp and offer to help. You do not need a uniform, just enthusiasm and a desire to help spread the word. If you camp is doing something, **let the rest of the Department know**, either contact the Clarion Call editor or Signals Officer. Their contact information is listed in this paper. Here is a hint, call your other camp members and car pool, it gets more bothers there and saves money.

Feb 1, National Flag Day, Feb 12, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Feb 20 President's Day, Feb 22 George Washington's Birthday, April 17 Patriot's Day, May 1 Loyalty Day, May 20 Armed Forces Day, May 28 Memorial Sunday, May 29 Memorial Day (observed), May 30 Memorial Day, June 14 Flag Day, July 4 Independence Day, Sept 11 Patriot Day, Sept 15 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sept 17 Citizenship Day, Nov 11 Veterans' Day, Nov 19 Remembrance Day

The Department Encampment is just a few months away! Hope to see everyone there! Clarion Call Editor

“The Civil War Era Remembered”

The **54th Massachusetts** is the most well known Black Regiment in the Civil War, but they were not the first Black unit organized nor the first to fight. States such as Louisiana, South Carolina, Kansas and Cincinnati, Ohio had organized such units. However, the 54th is the first Federally recognized unit that was formed in the North by the Union after the Emancipation Proclamation.

1st Regiment **Louisiana Native Guards** was originally part of the Louisiana Militia and were actually organized by the Confederacy to work as laborers. When New Orleans was liberated, they became a Union fighting force.

1st Kansas Colored Volunteers saw action at Island Mound, Missouri on October 29, 1862.

1st South Carolina Colored Infantry was made up of ex-slaves known as contrabands. The unit was disbanded because it was not approved by the War Department. (Approved after Emancipation Proclamation)

Black Brigade of Cincinnati was formed to do labor. No arms or uniforms were ever issued.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2005

Gettysburg, PA: This years Remembrance Day was more special than the last few years because it actually fell on November 19th, Remembrance Day. A contingent of Sons from the Department of Massachusetts traveled to Gettysburg to pay homage to the boys in blue. This years trip included a tour of Harpers Ferry in Virginia where arguably the aggressive nature anti-slavery continued. It was abolitionist John Brown who tried to create an uprising of black men. In the end, he was hung, but if he had lived another six years he would have seen his vision become truth. As for the Remembrance Day events, the Department was well represented in both the parade and the ceremonies on the Battlefield.

Photo by DSVC Perley Mellor of Department of Massachusetts S.U.V.C.W. Remembrance Day 2005 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

MY CAMP'S HISTORY

WILLIE GROUT CAMP #25
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

In Worcester, Massachusetts in 1894 there were two Civil War Veteran organizations: The Grand Army of the Republic and The Union Veterans Legion. The G.A.R. had a Sons of Veterans Camp, General A.A. Goodell Camp #2, which was founded in 1883. The G.A.R. was open to all Civil War Veterans. The U.V.L was exclusively for combat veterans. Since the G.A.R. had a camp, the U.V.L. decided it was time for them to have a Sons of Veterans Camp. On February 12, 1894, in Burwood Hall, camp officers were elected and a name voted on, thus the establishing of Willie Grout Camp #25, Sons of Veterans, Division of Massachusetts. The camp would be named after the first Worcester soldier to be killed in the War of Rebellion. Lt. John William Grout, was only eighteen years old and possibly the youngest officer in the war to be killed. Born in Worcester in 1843, Willie was the only son of Jonathan Grout and had always showed signs of military spirit. He was educated at the Highland Military Academy and after enlistment for the War, he received a commission as second lieutenant in Company D of the 15th Massachusetts Infantry. During the Battle of Ball's Bluff in Leesburg, Virginia on October 21, 1861, it was said he displayed coolness, discretion and generosity. When the regiment was in retreat they had to cross the Potomac River. He crossed the river in a boat with the wounded, and returned for more, and after sending the second boat across, he remained to see if he could help anymore. With bullets flying, he eventually had to jump in the river, but before he got to the other side he was shot. His last words were "Tell Company D that I should have escaped, but I am shot." On February 26, 1894, the officers were installed by Division Commander Col. A.C. Blaisdell of Lowell. Also present was Past National Commander-in-Chief F.P. Merrill. The Camp's first public appearance was on Memorial Day May 30, 1894 at the GAR Lot in Hope Cemetery. In that same year, the members of the camp formed "The Wellington Riffles" , a militia company which was designated Company H of the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. In 1898 the regiment went to Cuba to fight in the Spanish American War. Today the Wellington Riffles are Co D 1/181 Infantry. Camp 25 acted as personal guard to the members of Post 10 G.A.R. for many years. The camp not only performed admirably at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies, but also on special 4th of July events. On July 4, 1906, the camp was present for the unveiling of the Worcester County Civil War Monument to General Charles Devens. On July 4, 1912, the camp took part in the ceremony that laid a cornerstone to the new Post 10 G.A.R. Memorial Hall. For years the camp was involved in Memorial Day activities to include a ceremony at the G.A.R. Lot in Hope Cemetery, the three Civil War Monuments, ceremonies at Willie Grout's Gravesite, Wreath laying in Elm Park's pond, flagging as well as participating in various patriotic parades. Today the camp carries on as much as its numbers will allow, always planning for the next opportunity to continue the traditions of the past.

Charles H. Bond Camp No. 104

Presents the

Federal Memorial Tartan

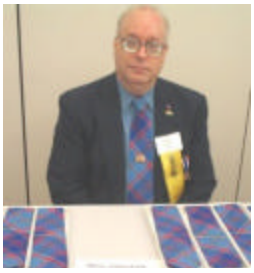
Necktie

(International Tartan Index No. 004191 as listed by the Scottish Tartans Authority)

A unique accessory for honoring our Union ancestors.

The tartan is woven in the following colors:

Dark blue symbolizing the uniform of Union soldiers, sky blue Infantry, gold symbolizing Cavalry, red symbolizing Artillery, and red, white and blue symbolizing the flag of the United States of America.



Brother John Abbott scene with tartan ties

Ties are $25.00 plus $3.50 shipping and handling, and come in a custom tie box.

This unique and beautiful tie makes a great gift, and helps to support
the Charles H. Bond Camp No. 104,
which recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

Send a check or money order, payable to "Charles H. Bond Camp No. 104", to:

William T. Ryerson, Treasurer
Charles H. Bond Camp No. 104
P.O. Box 11
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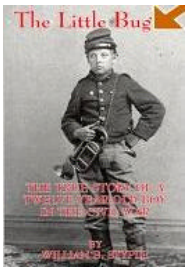
The Department Commander has authorized via a general order space in the Clarion Call for Camps who have fundraisers that will support their camp's goals which perpetuate the memories of Civil War Veterans.

A book review by Steve Twining **L.A. Tifft Camp No. 15**, Springfield, Massachusetts
"The Little Bugler" by William Styple



"The Little Bugler" is the true story of a twelve year old boy in the Civil War. Gustav Albert Schurmann was barely past his twelfth birthday when he volunteered to serve as a musician in the 40th NY Volunteers. By the end of his military career at age fifteen, he was a veteran of ten battles and had served as bugler for four Major Generals. He had spent time as a guest in the White House and became a friend of young Thomas "Tad" Lincoln. His father enlisted as well so as to be with his son. I could not put this book down once I started reading it. The trials and tribulations of the "Boy Drummer" who learned to play the bugle so well that he ended up as "Corps Bugler" was amazing. The description of Gustav's first meeting with General Kearney and how he showed his fearless horsemanship while serving the general was intriguing to me. The author's research was extensive and allowed him to present a wonderfully clear and concise picture of what it was like for little Gustave. It made me feel like I know him and would like to shake his hand and thank him for his contribution in saving "the Union." I look at his picture and can only say, "What a man this boy was." I totally enjoyed this book and finished it in record time because of that enjoyment. I hope to visit the grave of Gustave Schurman in the spring so that I may salute him.

Brother Frank Haley

(Continued from page 3). Chaplain Robert Knight began the ceremony with the invocation. DC John Bates took the opportunity to educate those in attendance about the history of the G.A.R. and the S.U.V.C.W.. Commander Bates was followed by A.S.U.V.C.W. Massachusetts President Nancy Fournier and National Vice President Barbara Mayberry. Another speaker was Brigadier General Bob Burbank of the New England Brigade of Civil War Reenactors. All dignitaries took turns praising the event. Among those who spoke were the children of the middle school who took turns reading award winning poems and essays.

Peter Rotando/Roy Henry

Of special note, during the ceremony, DC Bates and P Fournier shared a moment of unity as they placed a wreath of flowers at the memorial. Also special was the flower presentation. A red, white or blue flower was placed at the memorial by a relative assisted by a boy or girl scout for each soldier on the monument. Red represented the color of the blood shed on the battlefields during the War of Rebellion, white for the purity and innocence lost on those battlefields and blue for the color of the uniform of the Union Army. The Bellingham Quintet played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America". The ceremony concluded with the G.A.R. ritual which included taps, a three volley rifle salute as well as the dismantling of the civil war soldier's equipment. The day ended with all those in attendance at the town hall for refreshments. Other Sons in attendance, Brother Bill Ryerson, PDC (104), Brother Bob Durcharme (18), and Brother Joe Vecchione (18) who set up a civil war medical display at the historical society prior to the ceremony.

SUVCW Dignitaries DC Bates, SVC Mellor Chaplin Knight, ASUVCW P Fournier and NVP Mayberry

Note: Special Thanks to Bill Ryerson PDC, for his photos of the Bellingham Ceremony

Columbus Day Parade and the Sons of Veterans Reserve!

Worcester, MA: On Sunday October 9,2005, the 15th Massachusetts S.V.R. marched in the Columbus Day Parade. The unit carried the Departments' Colors down Shrewsbury Street. Led, by Sgt. Peter Rotando, Pvt. George Maple and Pvt. Rey Rodriguez along with Lt. Richard Luftkin did a great job exposing the S.U.V.C.W. to the public. At one point in the parade, a viewer of the parade yelled, "How do I join!". Once again the Department of Massachusetts represented the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War appropriately in the patriotic manner of past S.V.R. units.

PASSING OF BROTHER CLIFTON E. GAUNT

It is with great sadness that the Department reports the passing of our oldest member,
Brother Clifton E. Gaunt (104 years old)
of
A.A. Sherman Camp #18
on
November 26, 2005.

G.A.R.

S.U.V.C.W.

The Clarion Call

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

1866

1881

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www.suvmass.org

The Clarion Call
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